

REMARKS

This Amendment supplements the Amendment After Final Office Action dated July 19, 2004, for which entry has been requested concurrently. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended as discussed below. Claims 3-5 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors in the preparation of the July 19, 2004 Amendment After Final Office Action. New dependent Claims 20-22 have been presented in order to provide more comprehensive protection for certain aspects of Applicants' invention. Claims 9-17 were cancelled previously. Claims 1-8 and 18-22 are therefore pending for continued examination.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejection on Hatakeyama, independent Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the recited exposure treatment is a projection exposure treatment in which exposure light from the photomask is transmitted through a projection lens to pattern a photoresist. It will be appreciated that, so amended, Claim 1 distinguishes patentably from Hatakeyama. In particular, whereas Applicants' invention uses a projection exposure treatment as noted above, Hatakeyama's teachings concerning the use of microparticles relate to a direct beam etching treatment, which is quite distinct from projection exposure.

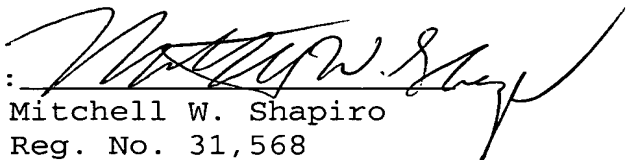
Hatakeyama thus fails to teach or suggest Applicants' invention as set forth in Claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 1 should be withdrawn, and Claim 1 should now be allowed. The remaining claims should also be allowed, at least as being dependent from Claim 1.

An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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